Battery Maintenance at Dealers

(Supersedes 89-003, dated March 7, 2008; see Revision Summary)

REVISION SUMMARY

All sections were revised extensively; American Honda recommends that you review the entire bulletin.

BACKGROUND

Maintaining batteries in unsold vehicles is the dealership's responsibility, and is an important part of ensuring a battery's operating life. If a new battery is not properly maintained and is allowed to go dead, it greatly affects the battery's long-term life, which can lead to unnecessary battery replacement and customer complaints. In hot weather (above 80°F), if a battery discharges, it greatly affects the battery's long-term life. In cold temperatures, a discharged battery can freeze, which damages the plates.

Also, if you do not properly maintain a battery, or fail to do a final inspection when the vehicle is sold, the customer may receive a battery with a low state-of-charge.

To determine when charging is needed, American Honda recommends using the ED-18 battery analyzer to quickly and accurately measure the battery state-of-charge. Refer to Service Bulletin 88-023, *Battery Testing and Replacement*, for more information.

To ensure that batteries are tested on a regular schedule, the battery maintenance responsibility should be assigned to one person in the dealership as recommended by the Perfect Delivery program.

INSPECTION INTERVALS

How a vehicle is stored determines the time intervals for checking the battery state-of-charge. These time intervals assume that the vehicle is not moved. If a vehicle is moved during this time, it affects the battery state-of-charge. Very short drives reduce a battery's charge, while long drives increase it. This affects the amount of time needed to charge the battery. If a vehicle is being stored on the dealership lot, you need to properly maintain the battery by routinely checking its state-of-charge and charging as needed. Check the battery with the ED-18 at the intervals noted below.

If you need to charge the battery, use the GR8 Battery Diagnostic Station.

When a vehicle arrives at the dealer from Honda, you must determine where the vehicle is going:

- Showroom floor
- Front line display
- Storage
- Sold to a customer

NOTE: Front line display vehicles should be replaced with the oldest ones in storage.

Once you decide where the vehicle is going, you can plan its battery maintenance schedule.

- Vehicle arrival at dealer – Check every battery on every vehicle on arrival at your dealership. This ensures that you know when to check the battery next. It's also a good practice in case something happened during storage or transportation (for example, a door was left ajar or a light was left on), and the battery fell below the recommended state of charge, you can charge it and make sure the next battery check is properly timed.
- Showroom floor – Check the battery every 7 days.
- Front line display – All the fuses should be installed, and check the battery every 30 days.
- Storage:
  - If you disconnect the battery negative cable, check the battery every 90 days as recommended by the Perfect Delivery program.
  - If the battery is connected, but the Back-up fuse removed, check the battery every 60 days.
- Pre-delivery inspection – You may not do the PDI when the vehicle arrives at your dealership, which is why it is important you check every battery when the vehicle arrives. When you do the PDI, follow the Pre-Delivery Inspection checklist in the Service History booklet, and enter the Good Battery 10-digit test code in the Under Hood - Engine Cold section.
- Final inspection (part of the PDI) - Follow the Pre-Delivery Inspection checklist in the Service History booklet, and enter the Good Battery 10-digit test code in the Final Inspection section.

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Skill Level R REPAIR

CUSTOMER INFORMATION: The information in this bulletin is intended for use only by skilled technicians who have the proper tools, equipment, and training to correctly and safely maintain your vehicle. These procedures should not be attempted by "do-it-yourselfers," and you should not assume this bulletin applies to your vehicle, or that your vehicle has the condition described. To determine whether this information applies, contact an authorized Honda automobile dealer.

RECORD KEEPING

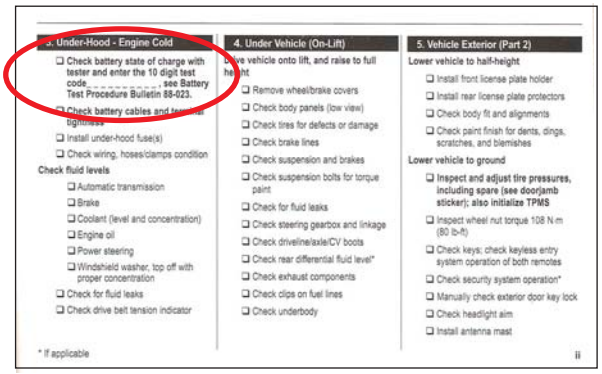
As you maintain the stored batteries (checking battery state-of-charge and charging them as needed), American Honda recommends keeping a detailed maintenance record. In case there is a warranty claim, you may be asked to show records about the battery maintenance. Records should include:

- A battery test done when the vehicle arrives and/or during PDI.
- Scheduled battery inspections (and recharged when needed). The battery inspection schedule depends on how you stored the vehicle and how long the vehicle was stored on the lot. See INSPECTION INTERVALS for more information.
- A battery test done at final delivery to the customer.

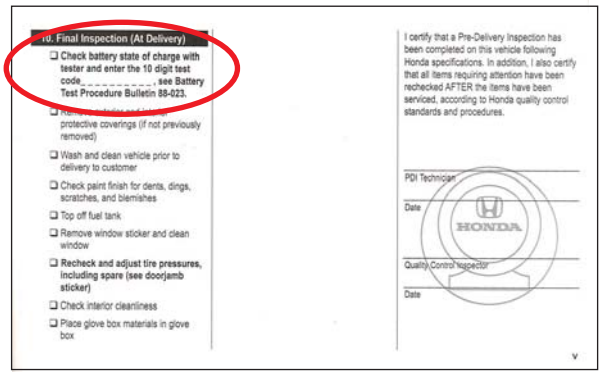
Print out and write the VIN on the **Good Battery** results from the battery analyzer, and add it to the vehicle's file.

There are two places to record the 10-digit code for the **Good Battery** results in the Service History booklet under the PDI checklist:

- Under-hood inspection


3. Under-Hood - Engine Cold
Check battery state of charge with tester and enter the 10 digit test code_____, see Battery Test Procedure Bulletin 88-023.
Check battery cables and terminal tightness
Install under-hood fuse(s)
Check wiring, hoses/clamps condition
Check fluid levels
Automatic transmission
Brake
Coolant (level and concentration)
Engine oil
Power steering
Windshield washer, top off with proper concentration
Check for fluid leaks
Check drive belt tension indicator
* If applicable
4. Under Vehicle (On-Lift)
Remove wheel/brake covers
Check body panels (low view)
Check tires for defects or damage
Check brake lines
Check suspension and brakes
Check suspension bolts for torque paint
Check for fluid leaks
Check steering gearbox and linkage
Check driveline/axle/CV boots
Check rear differential fluid level*
Check exhaust components
Check clips on fuel lines
Check underbody
5. Vehicle Exterior (Part 2)
Lower vehicle to half-height
Install front license plate holder
Install rear license plate protectors
Check body fit and alignments
Check paint finish for dents, dings, scratches, and blemishes
Lower vehicle to ground
Inspect and adjust tire pressures, including spare (see doorjamb sticker); also initialize TPMS
Inspect wheel nut torque 108 N·m (80 lb-ft)
Check keys: check keyless entry system operation of both remotes
Check security system operation*
Manually check exterior door key lock
Check headlight aim
Install antenna mast

- Final inspection


10. Final Inspection (At Delivery)
Check battery state of charge with tester and enter the 10 digit test code_____, see Battery Test Procedure Bulletin 88-023.
protective coverings (if not previously removed)
Wash and clean vehicle prior to delivery to customer
Check paint finish for dents, dings, scratches, and blemishes
Top off fuel tank
Remove window sticker and clean window
Recheck and adjust tire pressures, including spare (see doorjamb sticker)
Check interior cleanliness
Place glove box materials in glove box
I certify that a Pre-Delivery Inspection has been completed on this vehicle following Honda specifications. In addition, I also certify that all items requiring attention have been rechecked AFTER the items have been serviced, according to Honda quality control standards and procedures.
PDI Technician
Date
HONDA
Quality Control Inspector
Date

Fill in the information. Remove one copy of the PDI checklist from the Service History booklet, and put it in the customer/vehicle file. The other copy stays in the Service History booklet.

REQUIRED TOOLS

- GR8 Battery Diagnostic Station:
  P/N MTRGR81100P
- ED-18 Battery Analyzer:
  ED-18 Version 1: P/N INBED18LLH
  ED-18 Version 2: P/N INB17191840

NOTE: The ED-18 Battery Analyzer version 1 is no longer available for purchase.

Tool Requirements

- The GR8 and ED-18 software must be updated within 3 days of a new software update release. Refer to the applicable service bulletin for more information:
  - 09-060, *GR8 Battery Diagnostic Station Update Information*
  - 09-045, *ED-18 Battery Analyzer Update Information*

Warranty Requirements

The 10-digit test code must be included on a battery replacement claim. Refer to WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION.

WARRANTY CLAIM INFORMATION

The dealer is responsible for testing and charging batteries when a vehicle first arrives at the dealership and while in dealer inventory. Testing and maintenance charging of a battery in a new, unsold vehicle cannot be claimed under warranty. If you let a good battery sit discharged, and it is damaged from poor maintenance, this is not a defect, and the replacement is not covered by warranty.

For warranty claim details, refer to the *Honda Service Operations Manual* and to Service Bulletin 88-023, *Battery Testing and Replacement*, for more information.